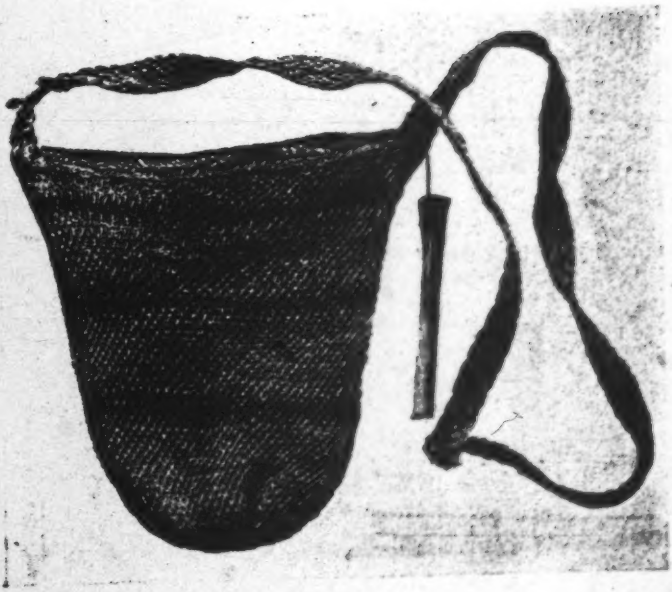
2:Skinner E-5 (1917) 1920
SA19 Talamanca SA19
Bribri

286
411
415
413



BAG WITH DOUBLE POCKET FOR CARRYING BLOWGUN PELLETS
(Depth of bag, 7½ inches)

[Facing p. 58]

2:Skinner E-5 (1917) 1920
SA19 Talamanca SA19
Bribri

411 about six inches from the muzzle, the end farthest from the user. These are sights, explained by the Indians as "eyes, so that the gun can see where to shoot" (pl. XVII, *c*). Of course these blowguns are suitable only for securing small game.

As an accessory to the blowgun, the Bribri carry small bags intended to hold the earthen pellets used as ammunition. Pl. IX [415] shows one of these bags, which has two compartments, one for the pellets, the other for game. Attached to it is a bone gauge, used [413] to reduce the pellets to the proper caliber for use. Pl. X exhibits another small, narrow, but deep bag for blowgun pellets.

[413] Gabb speaks of a small, straight, heavy piece of bone carried by the hunters and used to drive obstructions out of the tube by its own weight, in case of stoppage. None of these were seen by the writer.

In making blowgun pellets, special clay is obtained. That seen in use among the Bribri was gray, but some balls in the possession of a Cabecar hunter were made of red earth. The clay is brought to camp and dried, then ground fine on a stone mortar,

243 the crop is gathered only by the women and
[462] children, but rice is gathered also by the men. For this purpose, an implement made of cow horn and metal with a fiber string is used. The
●413 horn portion serves as a handle, fitting into the
243 palm of the hand while the metal part is sharpened as a knife, and protrudes between the index and the third finger. The string goes over the thumb to help steady the whole.
[177] This implement (see fig. 3, *c*) may have been borrowed from the Chiriquíans (i.e., the people from Chiriquí, Panamá, who formerly had homesteaded much of this area), and who use a similar tool, or it may be a local *Boruca* inspiration. The cutters are frequently decorated with lineal designs and initials (see fig. 3, *c*). The cutting of the rice is done with the right hand, the left being used to hold the plant. As with all other products, however,
[462] only the women and children bring the rice in from the fields, piling it in large baskets called *habas* in Spanish (see p. 15).

249 **Sugar, its Manufacture.** Sugar is extracted
417 from sugar cane in a very primitive fashion (see fig. 3, *d*). A tree with a knot is picked, and the knot hollowed out. About a foot or so distant, a forked portion of tree is placed erect, and one end of a hewn thick plank, slightly indented in the center, is rested in the fork with the other end against the live tree. A long pole is inserted in the knot hole, and a banana leaf is placed between the plank and the fork. Cane is put between the pole and the plank. One person holds and pushes one end of the cane and another pulls and receives it, while a third pumps the pole up and down. The cane is twisted to extract more juice as it is pulled through the presser. The juice runs down the plank, the leaf serving as a canal to guide the liquid into a vessel placed on the ground. When the pressing is over, the juice is boiled until an unrefined sugar remains.

231 **Domestic Animals.** As a rule, a family possesses a few chickens, some pigs, and an ox. The only one of these creatures which are given any semblance of shelter are the chickens, which, at night, are put in small houses (see figs. 4, *a*, *b*, *c*—see p. 23). In some households, there are dogs, which are used for hunting, and occasionally cats and birds. The birds are generally kept as pets, although at times they are raised for food.

3;Stone E-5 (1945) 1949

SA19 Talamanca SA19
Boruca

133
361

[249
417]

[413
284]

a, b, Distant views of Boruca village. c, Rice-cutter (actual size). d, Extraction of sugar cane juice.

[p. 53]